

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 092282 VICE 009282)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, GE

SUBJECT:GDR HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. DEPARTMENT SEEKING CURRENT INFORMATION ON ORGANIZATION, OFFICERS AND PURPOSES OF KOMITEE FUR MENSCHENRECHTE.
2. KOMITEE HAS DESCRIBED ITSELF IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS A "NON-STATE ASSOCIATION" WHOSE MEMBERS INCLUDED "REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIVE POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE DDR, OF THE TRADE UNIONS, THE WOMEN'S AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS, OTHER SOCIAL BODIES, AND LEADING POLITICAL SCIENTISTS AND LAWYERS." THE AIMS OF THE COMMITTEE "INCLUDE FULL SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN ARTICLE I(3) OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN PROMOTING AND ENCOURAGING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS." THE COMMITTEE ALSO WROTE THAT IT "HAS SET ITSELF THE TASK OF INFORMING PEOPLE ABOUT THE PRACTICE AND THEORY OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE GDR."

3. THE KOMITEE ADDRESS WAS GIVEN AS 108 BERLIN, THALMANNPLATZ, 8/9, GDR. THEIR SEKRETARY WAS S. FORBERGER. DURING THE PERIOD OF CORRESPONDENCE, DIFFERENT PERSONS

WOULD SIGN THE LETTERS: FRIEDEL MALTER, CHAIRMAN (1970);
DR. KLENNER HERMANN, CHAIRMAN (1973); DR. ROLF HELM,

VICE-CHAIRMAN (1971); CARLHEINZ V. BRUCK AND DR. FRIEDRICH
KARL KAUL (PRASIDIUMSMITGLIED - PRESEDIIUM MEMBERS).

4. THE KOMITEE HAD A SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE ANGELA DAVIS
TRIAL, INFORMATION ABOUT WHICH WAS PROVIDED TO THEM BY THE
LEAGUE. THEY IN TURN PROVIDED INFORMATION ABOUT AN
AMERICAN IMPRISONED IN THE GDR, FRANK KING (SUBSEQUENTLY
RELEASED) AND ABOUT A WEST GERMAN CITIZEN IMPRISONED IN
THE GDR, EBERHARD KOLL (ALSO RELEASED).

THE KOMITEE APPARENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKLETS ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

5. IF POSSIBLE EMBASSY SHOULD PROVIDE ASSESSMENT OF
GROUP, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL ROLE
AND IMPACT ON DOMESTIC HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES OF GDR
GOVERNMENT, AND OBTAIN SAMPLES OF BOOKLETS. VANCE

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